



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

APR 19 2002

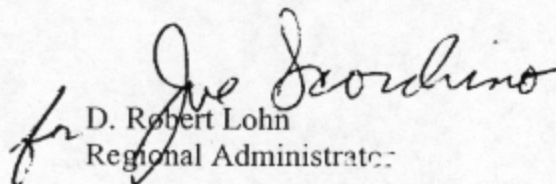
Dr. Jeffrey Koenings
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Jeff:

I want to express my appreciation for the professional contributions provided by the biologists and enforcement personnel of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to the Northwest Marine Mammal Stranding Network during the killer whale stranding event at Dungeness, Washington in early January. The availability of on scene expertise and equipment from your Department were pivotal to the post-mortem examination of the beach-cast female whale and the successful release of the live stranded male whale back to open water. Subsequent information obtained from a data recording tag, which was deployed on the male at the time of release, indicates that the whale was swimming and diving well for at least several days after it was towed out of Dungeness Bay and we are optimistic about its long term survival.

Please extend my special thanks to Steve Jeffries for his outstanding work and dedication and to his team from the Marine Mammal Investigations Unit including Dyanna Lambourn-Hughes, Monique Lance, and Tammy Schmitt. Your Enforcement Division staff including: Win Miller, Eric Anderson, Larry Baker, Dan Brinson, Mac Peterson, and Mike Schmidt were instrumental in the overall response and to the successful release. We appreciate the continued participation by WDFW in the Stranding Network and look forward to future collaboration on Network activities. I have enclosed a summary of the stranding event response.

Sincerely,

for 
D. Robert Lohn
Regional Administrator

Attachment

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